

Comment

Here we go again

There appears to be little disagreement that Canadians will be headed to the election polls sooner rather than later. In fact, a spring election appears most likely with one by the end of the year almost a certainty.

All you have to do is read today's front page to realize the blue machine is already in high gear.

With the Liberals being hit with bad news from the Gomery sponsorship inquiry on a daily basis, more bad news is the last thing Prime Minister Paul Martin needs, but certainly received last week.

From the "with friends like these, who needs enemies" department, Martin was blindsided by Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty who suggested Martin has virtually ignored the people of Ontario.

Keep in mind, it was the Ontario vote that allowed Martin to stave off Stephen Harper and the Conservatives in the last election and leave the Liberals with a shaky minority government. Now, the Liberal premier of Ontario is slamming

his federal brethren for refusing to even discuss the \$23-billion gap that exists between what Ontario sends to Ottawa in taxes and receives in grants and services.

Of course, McGuinty is right to be miffed at Martin but the premier is clearly trying to save his own political skin by forcefully pressing Ontario's case for equalization cash, hoping voters ignore his failure to deal with the provincial deficit and a string of broken promises.

Coupled with Adscam, McGuinty's stinging criticism was a double body shot to Martin's team.

This is probably why on Wednesday Martin opted to adopt the tiresome strategy of any wounded politician — create a sense of fear among the electorate.

With all the heat on the Liberals, Martin hinted the Conservatives would form an alliance with the Bloc Québécois and aid the separatists in their bid to fracture the country.

It was a move that reeked of desperation and one that's not likely to scare voters this time around.

HOW FAR HAVE THE LIBERALS FALLEN?



Our Readers Write

School council members deserve praise

Dear Editor:

This is National Volunteer Week, and in honour of it I'd like to publicly thank the Brookville Public School Council.

In particular I'd like to offer thanks to the executive members for all of their hard work in helping to make Brookville one of the best schools in Halton.

Chair Donna Danielli provides strong leadership. Last year she and vice-chair Karen Salzauler created a new constitution that forms a solid platform from which the current and future councils can act upon. Co-treasurers Elaine Traetto and Michelle Ewing also hardwork on the lunch bunch program so that on

Wednesdays, I don't have to fix a complete lunch for my two sons. Volunteer co-ordinator Alice Ritchie is in charge of the school closure phone call pyramid and is this year's spring fair co-ordinator.

These strong women do fundraising, and more importantly, they act as an advisory group to the principal and her administration. It's my hope that all principals make a big fuss about their school council members and other volunteers this week. I say three cheers for our school councils. Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hooray!

Stephanie Kimmerer
Moffat

Proposed development belongs elsewhere

Dear Editor:

I'd like to address the issue of the proposed apartment/townhouse development at Fourth Line and Derry Road.

I'm a Hawthorne Village resident and am strongly against the re-zoning application for this proposal.

If anyone's looking for valid concerns of the previously discussed petition, I'll explain.

I was an early homeowner of Hawthorne Village south, and during the time of the purchase of my new home, one of the things I looked at and considered was the zoning of surrounding areas.

Up until now, this area was designated as basically low density — with townhouses, semi and detached homes. If that block had been zoned high-density, I wouldn't have bought where I did.

Privacy is a big issue for me. A few backyards and friendly neighbours surrounding me isn't a big

deal, but hundreds of potential on-lookers into my backyard does infringe on my privacy — not to mention the shadow that apartments cast. For garden lovers who didn't expect this proposed building, this could present a drastic change.

With respect to infrastructure, I'm employed in the infrastructure design and construction industry and can say first-hand that the planning and design of a community's infrastructure is not done on-the-fly. The design of the area's infrastructure, although poorly laid out with respect to timing, has been designed with the current zoning in mind and can't be constantly changed as re-zones take place.

Estimates were made and used for maximum traffic flow as well as water and sewage use. Also, the infrastructure planning involves material life estimates. For example, a road may be built large

enough to handle a large volume of traffic, but the materials used can only handle so much wear before replacement is necessary.

The 401 is an extreme but prime example. Not to say that this one apartment will 'break the levy' per say, but other additional un-petitioned re-zonings may.

I can already say with certainty that the established local Mattamy streets, which that re-designed zone would pour onto, weren't built with an apartment in mind.

I'm not one to carry an elitist attitude toward my neighbours, and I don't oppose affordable housing.

But if an apartment complex is to be placed in Milton, place it in an area in which the proper planning can be made for it and potential surrounding residents can be made aware of this prior to the purchase of their homes.

J. Delseny
Hawthorne Village

E-mail all your letters to the editor to miltoned@haltonsearch.com.

Pud

by Steve Nease



The Canadian Champion

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

Ian Oliver Publisher
Neil Oliver Associate Publisher
Jill Davis Editor-in-Chief
Karen Smith Managing Editor
Wendy McNab Advertising Director
Tim Coles Production Manager
Charlene Hall Distribution Manager
Teri Casas Office Manager

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